

Appln No. 10/779,480
Amdt date March 30, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 31, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer decorative laminate for applying a layer of color to a substrate surface, the laminate comprising:

a dry paint layer comprising a color layer which includes a binder and a pigment, the dry paint layer having an upper surface and a lower surface,

a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer overlying the upper surface of the dry paint layer and adapted for adhering the laminate to a substrate surface at room temperature;

a release liner overlying the lower surface of the dry paint layer, the release liner removable from the dry paint layer at room temperature for exposing an outer surface of the dry paint layer when the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer adheres the laminate to the substrate surface under application of pressure and the release liner is thereafter peeled away from the dry paint layer; and

a thin flexible barrier layer disposed between the adhesive layer and the color layer of the laminate,

wherein the decorative laminate, excluding the release liner, has a total dry film thickness of 1.6 mils or less,

wherein the barrier layer has a dry film thickness from about 0.05 to about 0.20 mil, and

wherein the barrier layer comprises a polymeric film containing~~made from~~ a barrier material that inhibits migration of or captures migrating discoloration-causing pigments from a painted surface of the substrate through the adhesive layer to the color layer of the laminate sufficiently to essentially prevent noticeable color change caused by the migrating pigments from occurring in the color layer of the laminate under room temperature conditions.

2. (Original) The article according to claim 1 in which the barrier layer material inhibits or captures migrating mono azo discoloration-causing pigments.

3. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer decorative laminate for applying a layer of color to a substrate surface, the laminate comprising:

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a dry paint layer comprising a color layer which includes a binder and a pigment, the dry paint layer having an upper surface and a lower surface,

a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer overlying the upper surface of the dry paint layer and adapted for adhering the laminate to a substrate surface at room temperature;

a release liner overlying the lower surface of the dry paint layer, the release liner removable from the dry paint layer at room temperature for exposing an outer surface of the dry paint layer when the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer adheres the laminate to the substrate surface under application of pressure and the release liner is thereafter peeled away from the dry paint layer; and

a thin flexible barrier layer disposed between the adhesive layer and the color layer of the laminate, the barrier layer comprising a polymeric film containing~~made from~~ a material that inhibits migration of or captures migrating discoloration-causing azo-type pigments from a painted surface of the substrate through the adhesive layer to the color layer of the laminate, in which the decorative laminate, excluding the release liner, has a total dry film thickness of 1.6 mils or less, and in which the barrier material has a dry film thickness of not more than about 10% of the total thickness of the decorative laminate (exclusive of the release liner).

4. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer decorative laminate for applying a layer of color to a substrate surface, the laminate comprising:

a dry paint layer comprising a color layer which includes a binder and a pigment, the dry paint layer having an upper surface and a lower surface,

a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer overlying the upper surface of the dry paint layer and adapted for adhering the laminate to a substrate surface at room temperature;

a release liner overlying the lower surface of the dry paint layer, the release liner removable from the dry paint layer at room temperature for exposing an outer surface of the dry paint layer when the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer adheres the laminate to the substrate surface under application of pressure and the release liner is thereafter peeled away from the dry paint layer; and

a thin flexible barrier layer disposed between the adhesive layer and the color layer of the laminate,

wherein the decorative laminate, excluding the release liner, has a total dry film thickness of 1.6 mils or less,

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wherein the barrier layer has a dry film thickness from about 0.05 to about 0.20 mil, and
wherein the barrier layer comprisingcomprises an acrylic resinous material and a fine particulate additive comprising a metal compound, a metal oxide and/or a metal salt dispersed in the acrylic resinous material in an amount that reduces migration of or captures migrating discoloration-causing pigments from a painted surface of the substrate through the adhesive layer to the color layer of the laminate.

5. (Original) The article according to claim 4 in which the barrier layer material inhibits or captures migrating mono azo discoloration-causing pigments.

6. (Currently Amended) A self-wound multi-layer laminate for applying a layer of color to a substrate surface, the laminate comprising:

a dry paint layer comprising a color layer which includes a binder and a pigment, the dry paint layer having an upper surface and a lower surface,

a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer overlying the upper surface of the dry paint layer and adapted for adhering the laminate to a substrate surface at room temperature;

a release liner overlying the lower surface of the dry paint layer, the release liner having a matte release coat releasably adhered to the lower surface of the dry paint layer, and an adhesive release coat layer on a side of the release liner opposite from the dry paint layer, the release liner and the matte release coat removable from the dry paint layer at room temperature,

the matte release coat transferring a matte finish to an exposed surface of the dry paint layer when the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer adheres the laminate to the substrate surface under application of pressure and the release liner is thereafter peeled away from the dry paint layer,

the laminate adapted for being self-wound into a roll with the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer in contact with the adhesive release coat layer,

the adhesive release coat layer and the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer having an unwind release force between them which is lower [[that]]than a carrier release force between the matte release coat and the dry paint layer, such that the adhesive release coat preferentially releases the liner from contact with the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer when unwinding the laminate from its roll form, while the matte release coat on the release liner maintains contact

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with the dry paint layer when the laminate is being unwound from its roll form and the laminate is adhered to the substrate via the pressure-sensitive adhesive, and

a barrier layer disposed between the adhesive layer and the color layer of the laminate,
wherein the decorative laminate, excluding the release liner, has a total dry film thickness of 1.6 mils or less, and

wherein the barrier layer has a dry film thickness from about 0.05 to about 0.20 mil,
the barrier layer[[and]] comprising a polymeric film containing a ~~made from barrier~~ material that inhibits migration of or captures migrating discoloration-causing pigments from a painted surface of the substrate to which the adhesive side of the laminate is adhered, the barrier material made of a composition adapted to essentially prevent noticeable color change caused by the migrating pigments from occurring in the color layer of the laminate under room temperature conditions.

7. (Original) The article according to claim 6 in which the barrier layer material inhibits or captures migrating mono azo discoloration-causing pigments.

8. (Withdrawn) A process for making a multi-layer decorative laminate for applying a layer of color to a substrate surface, the process comprising:

forming a dry paint layer on a release liner, the dry paint layer comprising a color layer which includes a binder and a pigment, the dry paint layer having an upper surface and a lower surface,

applying a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer to the upper surface of the dry paint layer, the adhesive layer adapted for adhering the laminate to a substrate surface at room temperature;

the release liner overlying the lower surface of the dry paint layer, the release liner removable from the dry paint layer at room temperature for exposing an outer surface of the dry paint layer when the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer adheres the laminate to the substrate surface under application of pressure and the release liner is peeled away from the dry paint layer; and

applying a thin flexible barrier layer between the adhesive layer and the color layer, the barrier layer made from a material that inhibits migration of or captures migrating discoloration-causing azo-type pigments from a painted surface of the substrate through the adhesive layer to

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the color layer sufficiently to essentially prevent noticeable color change caused by the migrating pigments from occurring in the color layer under room temperature conditions.

9. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 8 in which the adhesive layer is direct-coated on the barrier layer.

Please add the following new claims:

10. (New) The article according to claim 1 in which the dry paint layer further includes an outer clear coat layer overlying the color layer and in releasable contact with the release liner.

11. (New) The article according to claim 1 in which the release liner has a matte release coat releasably adhered to the lower surface of the dry paint layer, the matte release coat transferring a matte finish to the exposed surface of the dry paint layer when the release liner is peeled away from the dry paint layer.

12. (New) The article according to claim 3 in which the dry paint layer further includes an outer clear coat layer overlying the color layer and in releasable contact with the release liner.

13. (New) The article according to claim 3 in which the release liner has a matte release coat releasably adhered to the lower surface of the dry paint layer, the matte release coat transferring a matte finish to the exposed surface of the dry paint layer when the release liner is peeled away from the dry paint layer.

14. (New) The article according to claim 4 in which the dry paint layer further includes an outer clear coat layer overlying the color layer and in releasable contact with the release liner.

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15. (New) The article according to claim 4 in which the release liner has a matte release coat releasably adhered to the lower surface of the dry paint layer, the matte release coat transferring a matte finish to the exposed surface of the dry paint layer when the release liner is peeled away from the dry paint layer.